

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 5307

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, BGD

SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON INSURGENT LEADER KHALID

MOSHARRAF

REF: DACCA 5300, DACCA 5292, DACCA 5291

1. BRIGADIER KHALID MOSHARRAF, CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF OF THE ARMY, WAS BORN IN NOVEMBER 1937 TO A POLITICALLY ACTIVE, LANDED MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILY IN MYMENSIGH DISTRICT. HE IS BELIEVED TO BE THE UNCLE OF MAJOR FAROOK RAHMAN, A KEY LEADER OF THE AUGUST 15 COUP. MOSHARRAF JOINED THE ARMY IN 1958 AND IN MARCH 1971 WAS A MAJOR WITH THE FOURTH BATTALION OF THE AST BENGAL REGIMENT STATIONED AT THE COMILLA CANTONMENT. HE WAS ONE OF THE BAGALEE OFFICERS WHO TOOK COMMAND OF THE FOURTH EAST BENGALS AND LED THEM AGAINST TROOPS LOYAL TO THE PAKISTANIS. DURING THE SUCCEEDING WAR, MOSHARRAF OPERATED IN THE SYLHET AND COMILLA AREAS AND MAINTAINED LIAISON WITH INDIAN ARMY AFTER THE WAR, MOSHARRAF WAS PROMOTED FIRST TO COLONEL AND THEN TO BRIGADIER. IN OCTOBER 1973, HOWEVER, HE FAILED TO BE PROMOTED TO MAJOR GENERAL WHEN HIS TWO SENIOR COLLEAGUES, SAFIULLAH AND ZIAUR RAHMAN, OBTAINED THAT RANK. AFTER THE COUP OF AUGUST 15, MOSHARRAF AGIAN FAILED TO IMPROVE HIS POSITION; HE REMAINED AS CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF, THE
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THIRD RANKING POSITION IN THE ARMY.

2. MOSHARRAF IS A CONTROVERSIAL FIGURE AND FREQUENTLY CHARACTERIZED AS AN AMBITIOUS MAN. DURING THE RIVALRY BETWEEN SAFIULLAH AND ZIAUR RAHMAN IN 1972 FOR THE POSITION OF ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, MOSHARRAF REPORTEDLY SIDED WITH SAFIULLAH. SINCE ZIAUR RAHMAN REPLACED SAFIULLAH AS COAS ON AUGUST 24, THERE HAVE BEEN INTERMITTENT REPORTS THAT MOSHARRAF WOULD BE REMOVED FROM HIS POSITIZN AND POSSIBLY SECONDED TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AS WAS SAFIULLAH.
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